



Steve DeBry, Chair
District #5

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Tom Chapman



September 28, 2021

Tom –

Thank you very much for your letter about the lifeguard issues at the South Jordan Fitness and Aquatics Center.

Your dedication to this issue is impressive. To gather so many signatures is a feat to be applauded.

My office first asked our county Parks and Recreation department for a review of lifeguard salaries in May 2021, to see if they are making a competitive wage. I have not received a response. The Council set aside money in June 2021 to have departments come and ask for requests like this.

I am going to pass your letter on to County Parks and Recreation and ask that they include me in any response to your concerns about minimum lifeguards on site, certifications, and wages.

Thank you for your interest and desire to make Salt Lake County facilities the best they can be.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steve DeBry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Steve DeBry
Chair, Salt Lake County Council

CC: County Council
Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation

Mr. Steve DeBry

Salt Lake County Council

Dear Mr. DeBry

I am writing about a problem with the indoor pool at the South Jordan Fitness and Aquatics Center. The County acquired the Center from South Jordan City earlier this year. Thank you for providing such services.

We have been in the water aerobics classes and using the "Lazy River" for exercise for about 10 years. Like most of us who have physical limitations, we are not able to take advantage of the rest of the facility. In that time, as it is now, the pool is only open to people in the classes, Lap Swimming and Water Walking in the morning hours. This is much appreciated. In the past all three areas could be used simultaneously with a few lifeguards. Now whole areas must close due to changes in your rules going from Red Cross to Star Guard Elite programs and lack of staffing. This seems to be due both to poor pay and to your current rules that state the life guards must be able to see the bottom of the pool in all areas. This seems sensible in the afternoon and evening hours when scores of rambunctious youth and families with small children are playing. But in the morning hours when the pool is closed to them, the numbers of patrons are less than 30 at any time and are all mature adults with most of these in organized and supervised classes, closing whole areas of the pool because of lack of life guards seems foolish.

There are three areas of the pool: The Deep End (6 feet deep) where the Water Aerobics classes are held and which is closed off the rest of the time, the Lap Lanes where 2-4 people can swim and is between 3.5 and 5.5 feet deep, and the river that encircles the Lap Lanes which is used by people with disabilities, leg or back issues including a 93 year old man and is 3.5 feet deep.

One Guard watches over the Deep End when classes are held with an average of 10 students and two popular classes a week may have 21 students wearing flotation belts. The classes take a maximum of three hours a day.

One guard watches over the 2-4 people in the lap lanes (which are not always used but are open from 5:30 am to 12:30 pm tying up one guard).

The same Guard could also watch the River with 1-10 people walking around the lap lanes. Or if required a second guard could share this area. Currently the River is only open from 5:30 to 7:30 am and 10:30am to 12:30pm. This is not convenient.

With one extra guard to rotate and allow 15 minute breaks you have a maximum of 4 guards.

Under the current rules I am told the requirement is for 8 guards. This means much of the time the guards would outnumber the patrons. And there are times the pool is closed because of staffing issues.

It seems like a prudent practice to provide personnel that match the clientele. In the morning hours the same number of guards are not needed as in the 3:00pm to 9:00pm Open Swim because of the age and number of patrons. But your rules don't take this into account.

This petition was begun by Vickie Johnston and completed by me and is asking for your attention to these problems:

1. Can you pay the life guards a competitive wage?
2. Can you direct their program to respond better to the number and type of clientele?
3. Can you keep the whole pool open in the morning? We have paid to use the facility and built our days around it. It is vital to our health and well being. Please help us.

Tom Chapman



We, the undersigned patrons and tax payers who use South Jordan Recreation Center, respectfully petition Salt Lake County to open the entire pool, not just one or two areas at a time. We realize the reason the areas aren't open is for lack of lifeguards. Under the "Starguard Elite" certification program, lifeguards must be provided for each "area" of the pool. Before the City turned South Jordan Rec Center over to the County, there was only one lifeguard, and all pool areas were open. They were using "Red Cross" lifeguard certification, which, we understand, costs half as much if a lifeguard is retained for two years. The present system severely limits when we can use the pool, because there needs to be a lifeguard for each of several designated areas under "Safeguard Elite."

Having our very unique River area open at 10:30 is just too late in the morning for most of us to begin exercising. (Others would like the "deep end" area open more often.) Even though most of us are retired, we still have other important things to do, and most of us who use The River can only walk or jog when in The River, because of neuropathy or other infirmities with our legs and feet. This exercise is crucial for retaining the muscle, strength, and balance working out in The River affords us. The ideal would be to scrap "Safeguard Elite" certification for "Red Cross" certification. "Red Cross" worked well before with only one lifeguard on duty, and there are little differences in the two programs which the exception of severely limiting patrons in the use of the beautiful facility which receives so much support from us in taxes and membership fees. This is unfair and especially targets the County's older population.

Printed Name of Patron

Signature

Phone number

K Johnston

[Redacted Signature]

Signature continues on next page.....

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Printed Name of Patron

Signature

Phone number

Susan Kirkpatrick

Thomas R. Chapman

Nina Chapman

MARILYN YEOMANS

JUDY LEEFLANG

Linda Lawson

Alan M. Jones

Trinette Krebs

Debbie Mitchell

Rob Menz

Sue Hunsick

Savannah McDowell

Jill Campbell

TERESA ZUPAN

Janet Parrett

Robert Permitt

Denwa Miyasaki

Daryl Miyasaki

Mollie Mee

Somer Squire

Jen Adams

Alicem. Behumih

Gllice Jacobsen

Kathy Gunther

Pat Mahlester

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Printed Name of Patron

Signature

Phone number

Nathy Brown

Karen Miles

Norma Larsen

Kirsten Peay

Susan Stenzer

AMINta Maldonado

Gerri Dickinson

Lois Schiffman

Kay Dahn

Johette Johnson

Casaday Bennett

Paul Wicks

Othella D. Harris

Barbara Reetz

Emily Sayre

Susan Sayre

Cordelia Roberts

H Michael Roberts

Denise Cooper

Helen Montano

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OVER →

Printed Name of Patron

Signature

Phone number

Natalie Shepherd

LyNae D'Addabbo

Bill Bylund

Amme Swasey

Bonnie Fisher

Barbara Park

Gale Withington

Steph Robb

Wm. J. J. J. J. J.

Candice Chapman

Annette J. J. J.

Margaret Sell

Marilyn Gibson

Rene Warner

Emalynn Heath

~~Colleen J. J.~~

Jill Greenlaw

Kathy Gunther

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